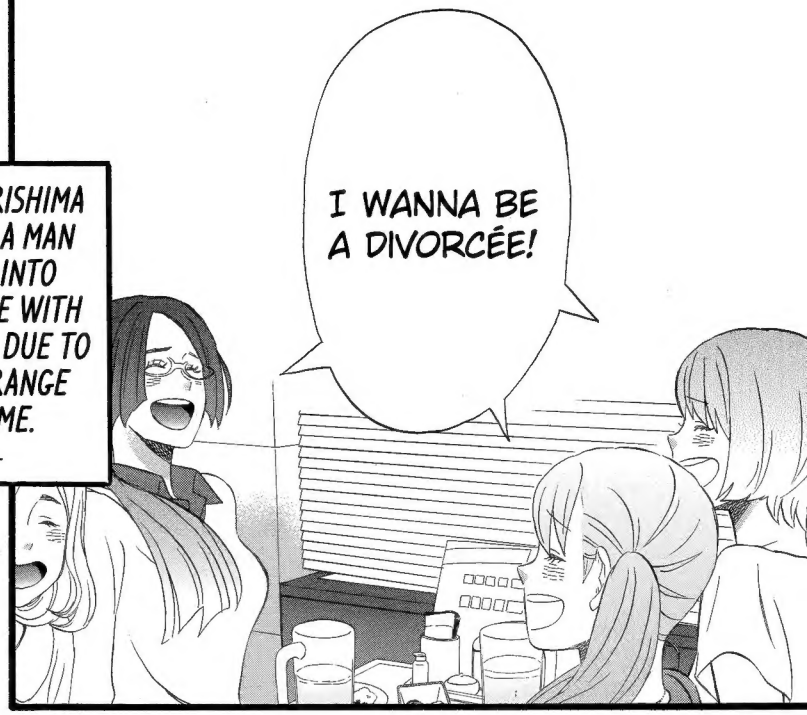
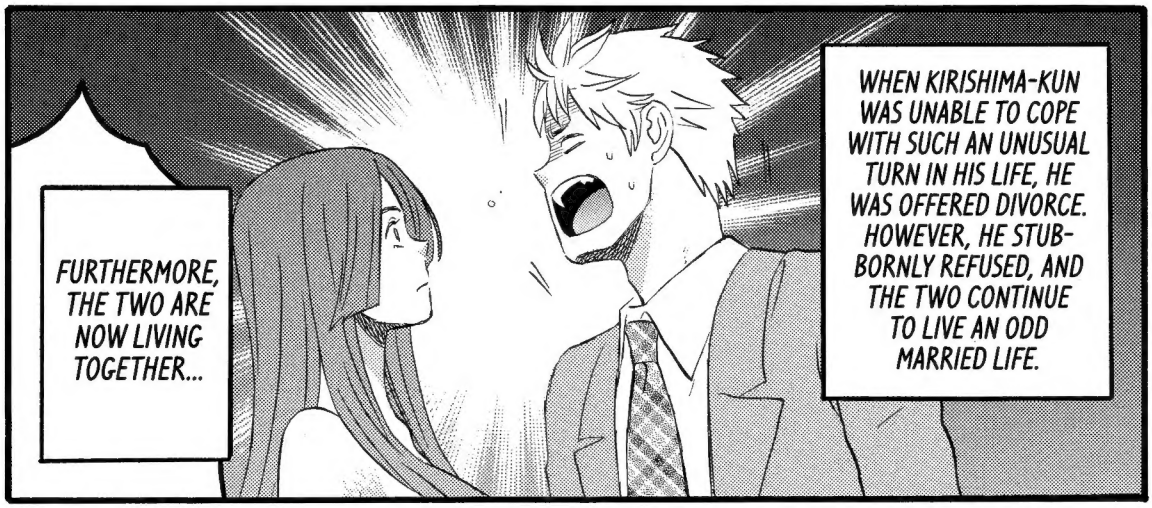
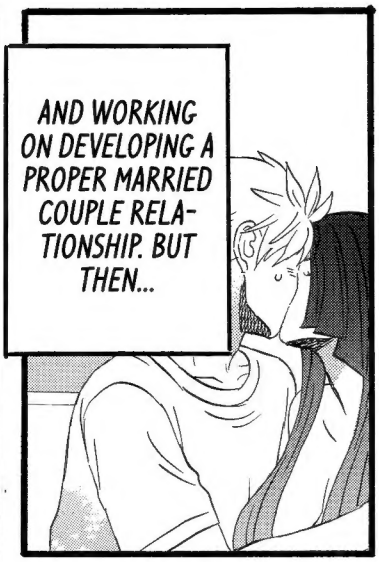
Chapter 6: Kirishima-kun's Rival?

...AND KIRISHIMA SHIROU, A MAN ROPED INTO MARRIAGE WITH ISHIMURA DUE TO HER STRANGE SCHEME.
←

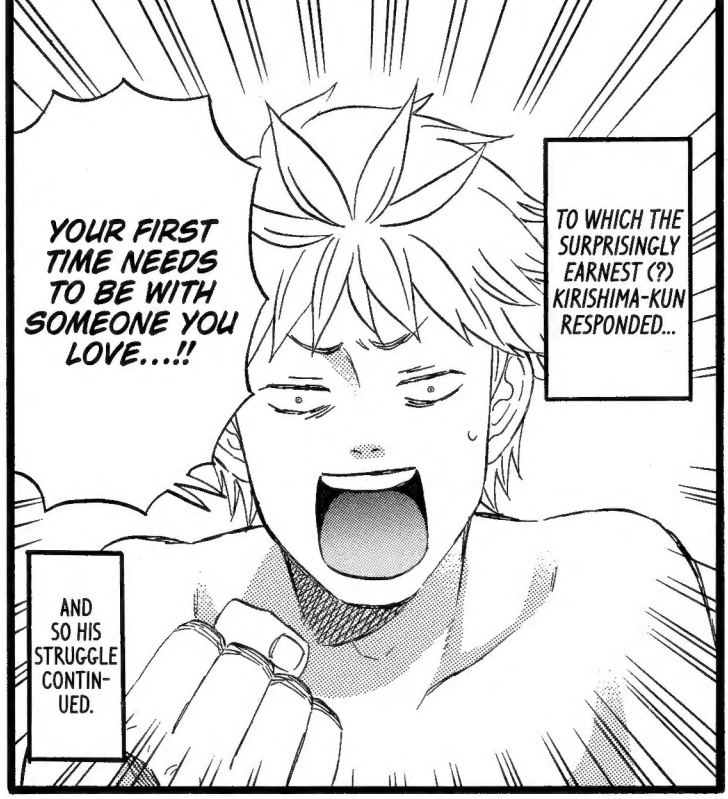

I WANNA BE A DIVORCÉE!

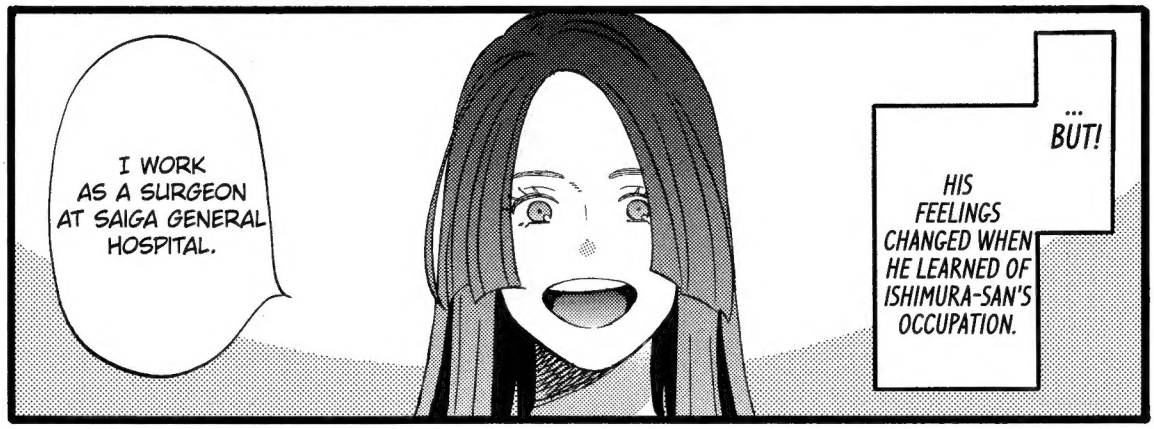

FURTHERMORE, THE TWO ARE NOW LIVING TOGETHER...
WHEN KIRISHIMA-KUN WAS UNABLE TO COPE WITH SUCH AN UNUSUAL TURN IN HIS LIFE, HE WAS OFFERED DIVORCE. HOWEVER, HE STUBBORNLY REFUSED, AND THE TWO CONTINUE TO LIVE AN ODD MARRIED LIFE.

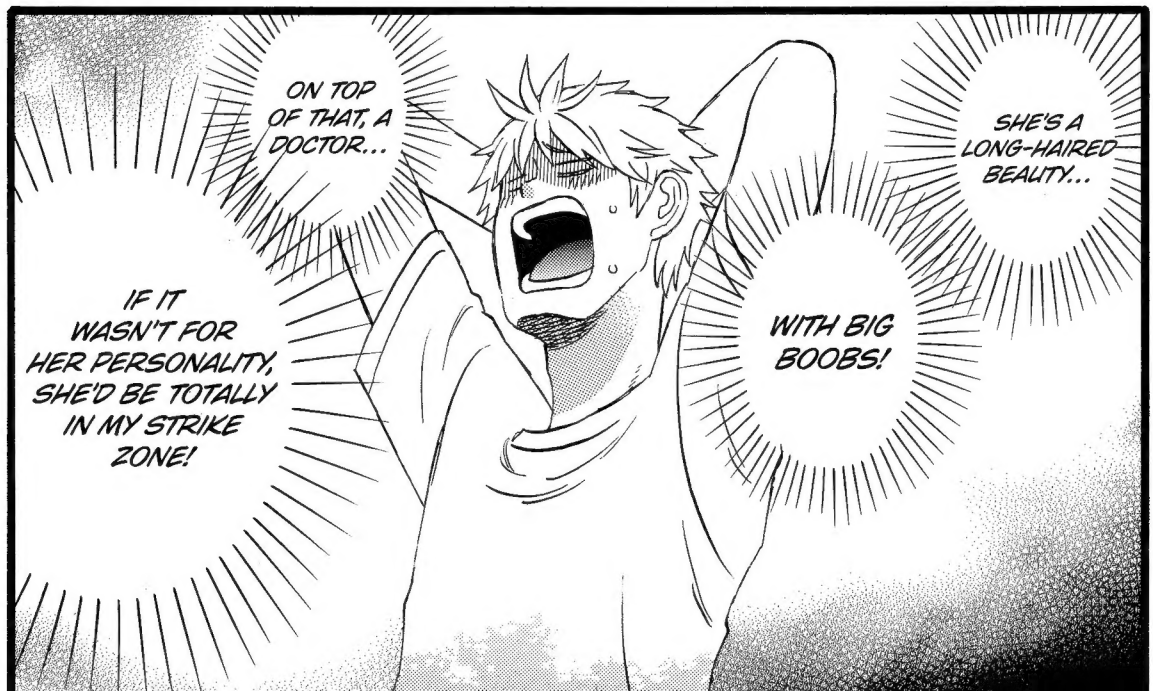
Virgin
ISHIMURA-SAN UNEXPECTEDLY DECLARED SHE HAD NO EXPERIENCE.
NOPE. NEVER DONE IT BEFORE.


AND WORKING ON DEVELOPING A PROPER MARRIED COUPLE RELATIONSHIP. BUT THEN...

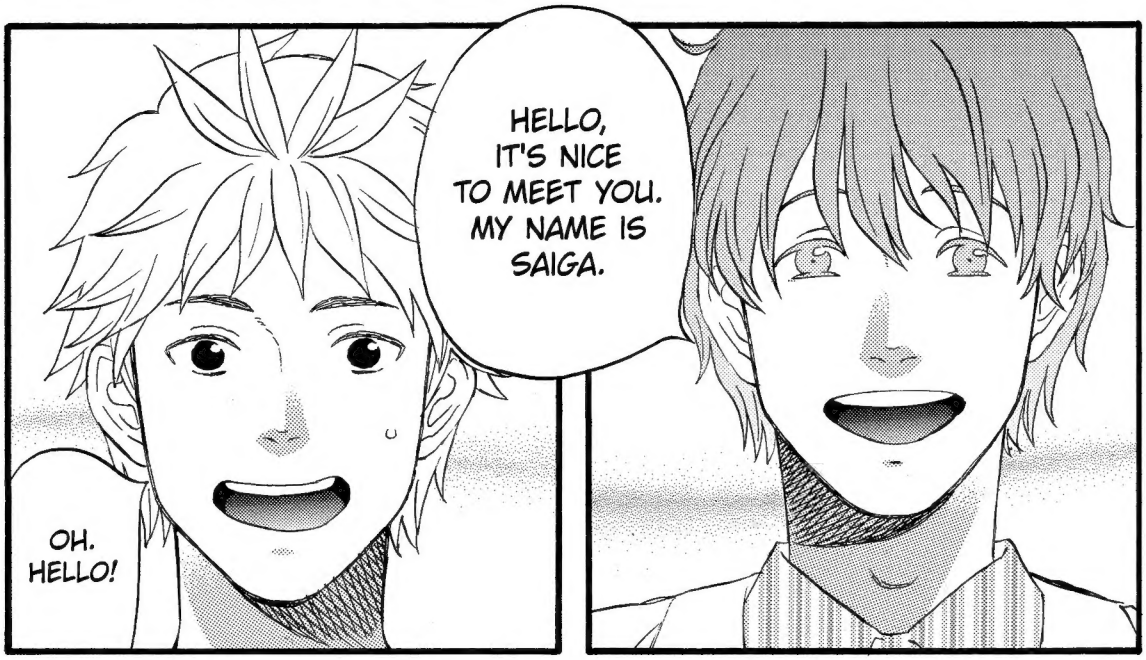
KIRISHIMA-KUN WAS DETERMINED TO STAY TOGETHER UNTIL HE FOUND A NEW JOB AND A PLACE TO LIVE...
AFTER WHICH HE WOULD ASK FOR A DIVORCE.

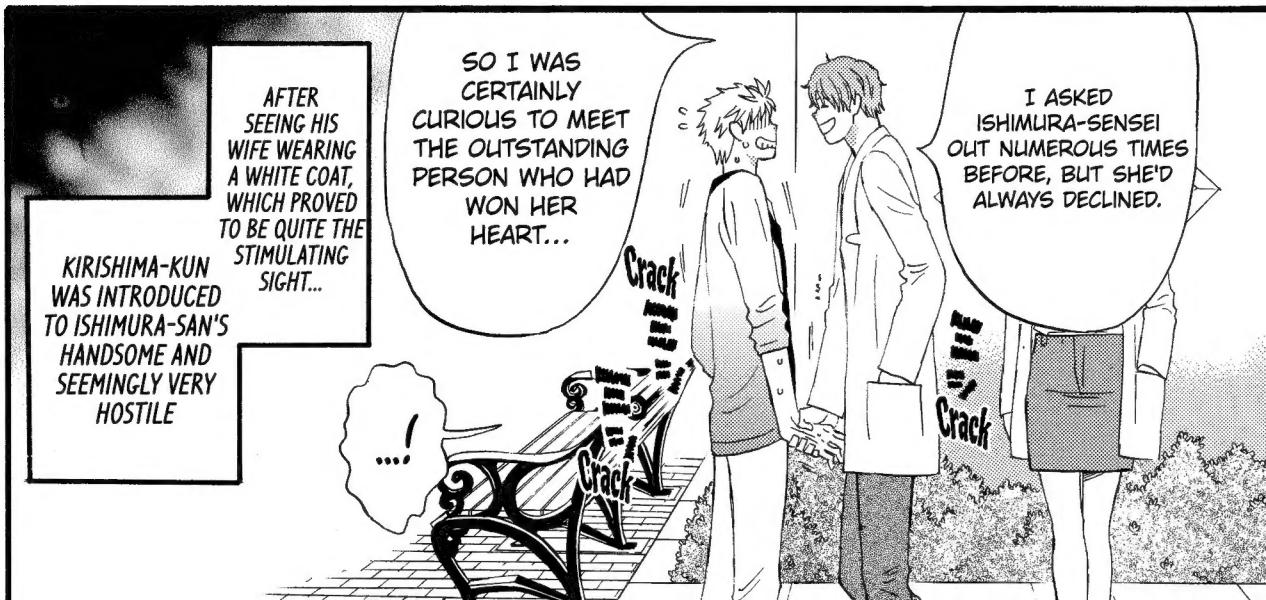

YOUR FIRST TIME NEEDS TO BE WITH SOMEONE YOU LOVE...!!
TO WHICH THE SURPRISINGLY EARNEST (?) KIRISHIMA-KUN RESPONDED...
AND SO HIS STRUGGLE CONTIN-UED.

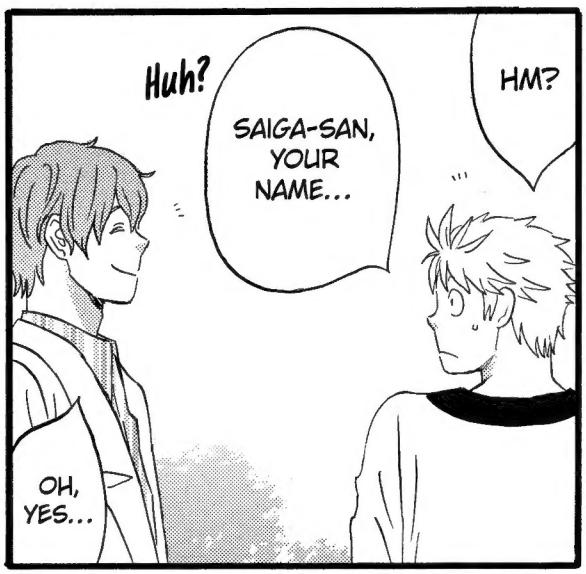

I WORK AS A SURGEON AT SAIGA GENERAL HOSPITAL.
... BUT!
HIS FEELINGS CHANGED WHEN HE LEARNED OF ISHIMURA-SAN'S OCCUPATION.


ON TOP OF THAT, A DOCTOR...
SHE'S A LONG-HAIRED BEAUTY...
IF IT WASN'T FOR HER PERSONALITY, SHE'D BE TOTALLY IN MY STRIKE ZONE!
WITH BIG BOOBS!

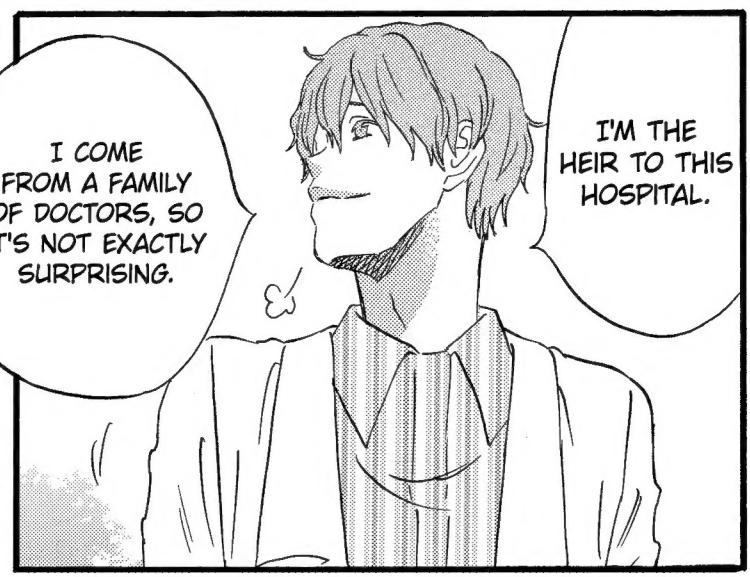
AND THIS BRINGS US TO THE PRESENT...
I'LL DEFINITELY REGRET IT IF WE DON'T DO IT AT LEAST ONCE BEFORE WE DIVORCE!


OH. HELLO!
HELLO, IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU. MY NAME IS SAIGA.


KIRISHIMA-KUN WAS INTRODUCED TO ISHIMURA-SAN'S HANDSOME AND SEEMINGLY VERY HOSTILE
AFTER SEEING HIS WIFE WEARING A WHITE COAT, WHICH PROVED TO BE QUITE THE STIMULATING SIGHT...
SO I WAS CERTAINLY CURIOUS TO MEET THE OUTSTANDING PERSON WHO HAD WON HER HEART...
I ASKED ISHIMURA-SENSEI OUT NUMEROUS TIMES BEFORE, BUT SHE'D ALWAYS DECLINED.
...!
Crack
Crack
Crack


Huh?
SAIGA-SAN, YOUR NAME...
HM?
OH, YES...

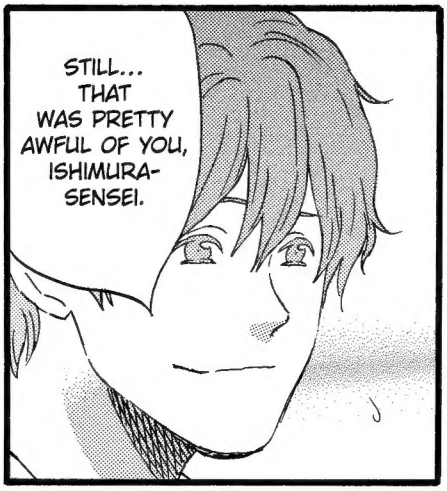
SO THIS IS THE TYPE OF PERSON ISHIMURA-SAN ATTRACTS...
I hope we can get along well!
L-Likewise...
Throb Throb

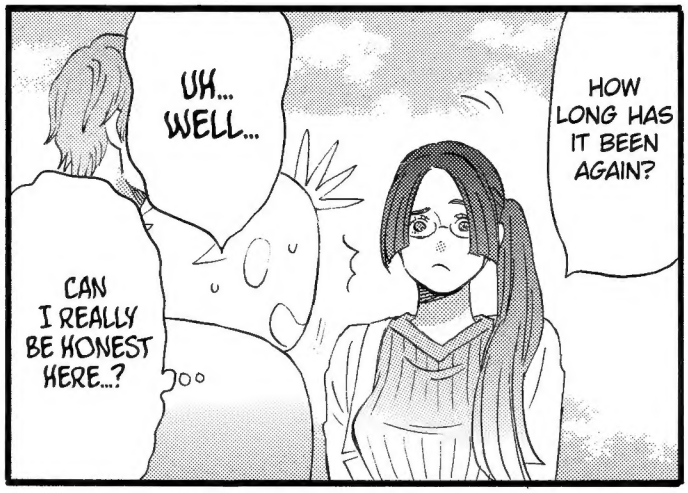

BUT IT'S STILL A LONG WAY OFF.
I COME FROM A FAMILY OF DOCTORS, SO IT'S NOT EXACTLY SURPRISING.
I'M THE HEIR TO THIS HOSPITAL.

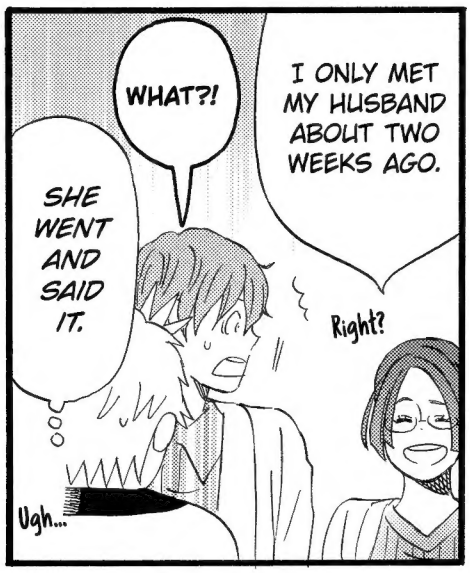
Heh heh heh! It's all right.
What a pain... You sure don't have it easy, Saiga-sensei.

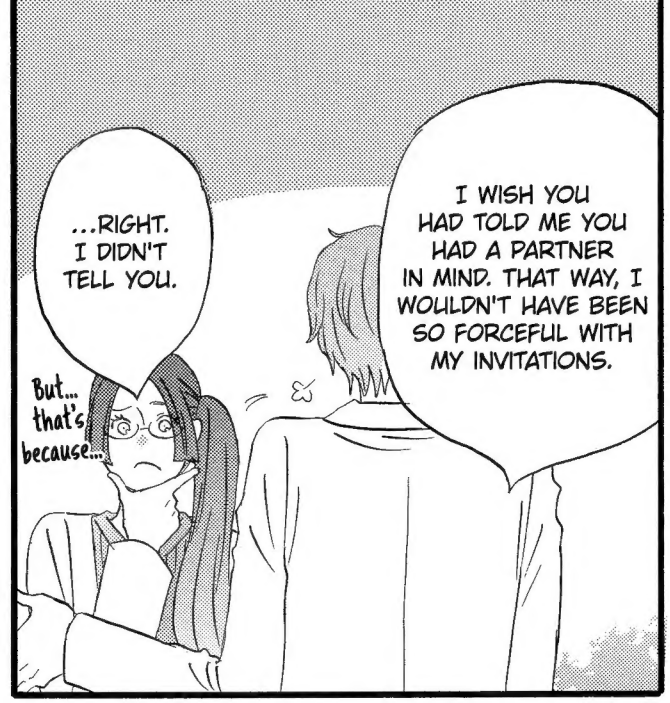
A RECENTLY LAID OFF DUDE WITH BLEAK FUTURE PROSPECTS...
NIBBLE
NIBBLE
NIBBLE
THE HANDSOME HEIR FROM A FAMILY OF DOCTORS...

OHH...
HOW LONG HAVE YOU TWO KNOWN EACH OTHER?
AH HH...
THE DIFFERENCE IN QUALITIES BETWEEN US IS SO GREAT THAT I'M AFRAID THE MOMENT HE BREATHES, I'LL BE BLOWN TO SMITHEREENS ...!

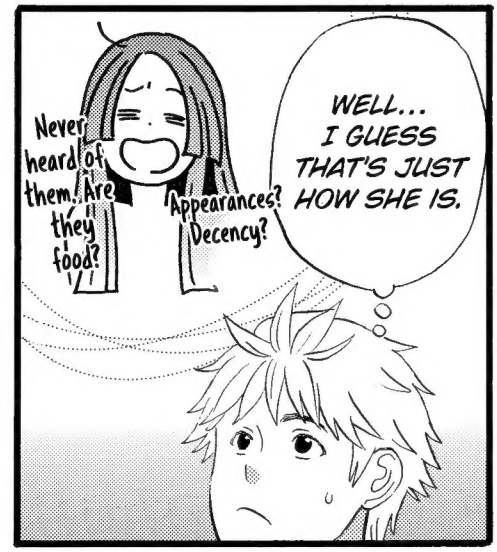

STILL... THAT WAS PRETTY AWFUL OF YOU, ISHIMURA-SENSEI.


UH... WELL...
HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN AGAIN?
CAN I REALLY BE HONEST HERE...?


I ONLY MET MY HUSBAND ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO.
WHAT?!
SHE WENT AND SAID IT.
Right?
Ugh...


I WISH YOU HAD TOLD ME YOU HAD A PARTNER IN MIND. THAT WAY, I WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN SO FORCEFUL WITH MY INVITATIONS.
...RIGHT. I DIDN'T TELL YOU.
But... that's because...

...


WELL... I GUESS THAT'S JUST HOW SHE IS.
Never heard of them. Are they food?
Appearances? Decency?

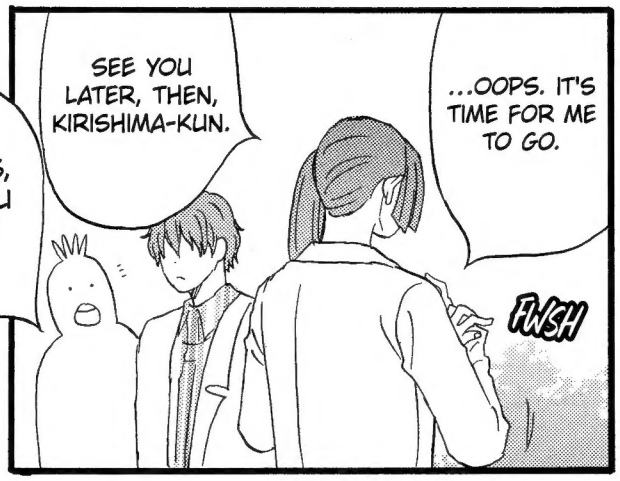
S-SO, ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO, YOU HAD A DRAMATIC FIRST ENCOUNTER, WHICH THEN LED TO MARRIAGE... CORRECT?
I WOULDN'T REALLY CALL IT "DRAMATIC". WE JUST MET AT A BAR.
IT WAS CERTAINLY DRAMATIC FOR ME, THOUGH. LIFE-CHANG-ING, EVEN.

AAAND OF COURSE ISHIMURA-SAN DOESN'T REALLY UNDER-STAND MY FEELINGS!
HE'S A FULL-TIME HOUSEHUS-BAND!
I freaking knew it!

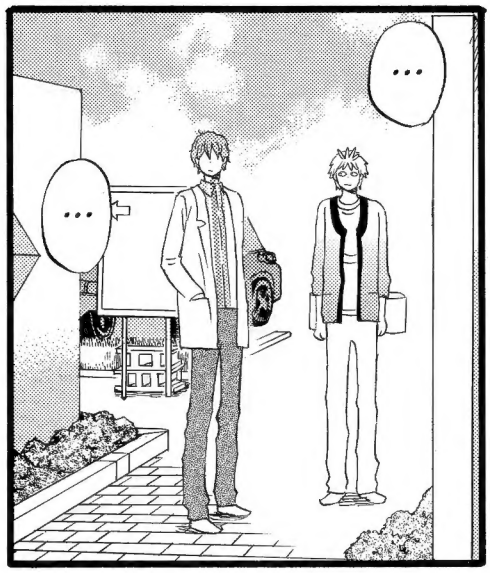
THE TIMING TO SAY IT COULDN'T BE WORSE...
WHAT?! UH, WELL...
GLANCE
AND WHAT DO YOU DO FOR A LIVING?
...

OH, GOSH... IT'S LIKE I CAN READ WHAT HE'S THINKING...!
Moocher... Trash...
...OHH?
Unemployed... NEET...
HE'S IN CHARGE OF ALL HOUSEWORK. HE REALLY SUCKS AT COOKING AND IS YOUNGER THAN ME, BUT DEEP DOWN, HE'S A NICE GUY.

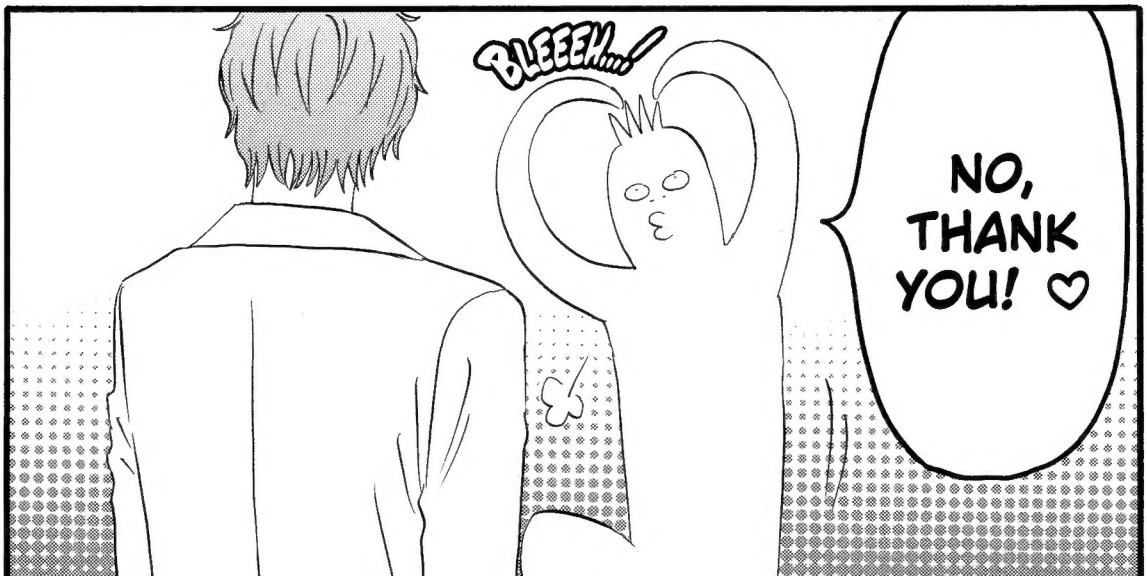
...
OH. YES, SEE YOU LATER!


SEE YOU LATER, THEN, KIRISHIMA-KUN.
...OOPS. IT'S TIME FOR ME TO GO.
FWSH

NO. IT'S ALL RIGHT.
UM... DON'T YOU NEED TO GO AS WELL, SAIGA-SAN?


...
...

CAN I HAVE A WORD WITH YOU?


BLEEEH...!
NO, THANK YOU! ♡

YEAH...
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT, EITHER.

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU MARRIED ISHIMURA-SAN.
YOU'RE AMAZING, YOU KNOW?
Oh, man... I wanna go home...
...OF COURSE I CAN'T TELL HIM THAT. I'M A COWARD...

I'M GOING TO ASK YOU FRANKLY.
YOU TWO ARE NOT A GENUINE COUPLE, ARE YOU?

HUH...?

SO WHAT CAUSED YOUR MARRIAGE TO HAPPEN?

YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE YOU'RE MARRIED. IN FACT, YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE LOVERS AT ALL.

HEH HEH HEH...
GET UP

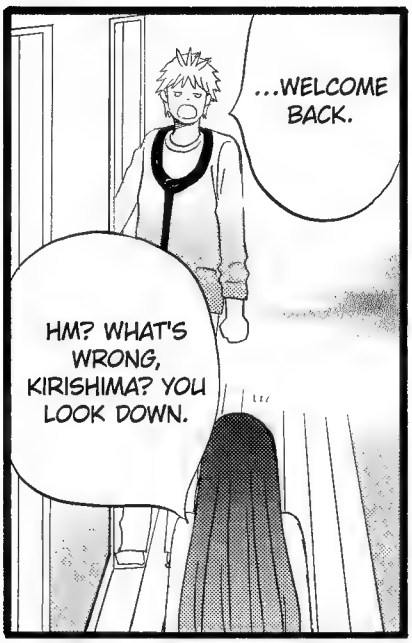
...I UNDER-STAND.
I HAVE NO REASON TO TELL YOU, SAIGA-SAN.
I-I'M AFRAID THAT'S A PRIVATE MATTER...

BUT IT APPEARS THAT IS NOT THE CASE HERE.
I WOULD HAVE GRACEFULLY GIVEN UP IF ISHIMURA HAD A NORMAL, HAPPY MARRIAGE.
WHA...?

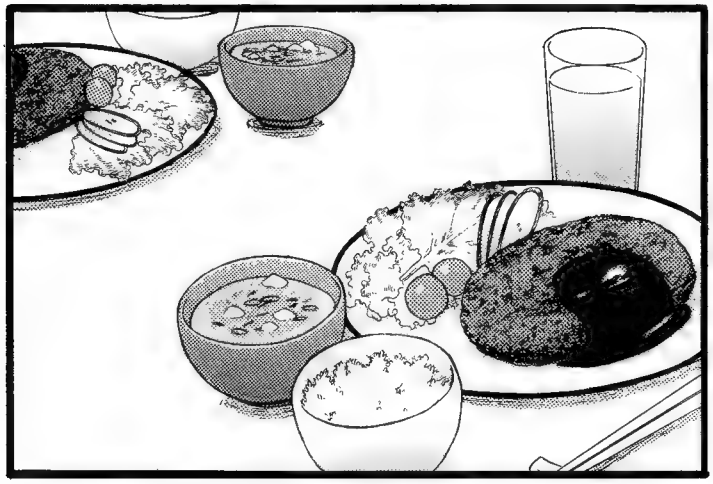
I'M GLAD THAT WE MET TODAY.
UNTIL NEXT TIME.

PLUMP

SLAM
I'M HOOOME!
KER-CHAK


...WELCOME BACK.
HM? WHAT'S WRONG, KIRISHIMA? YOU LOOK DOWN.

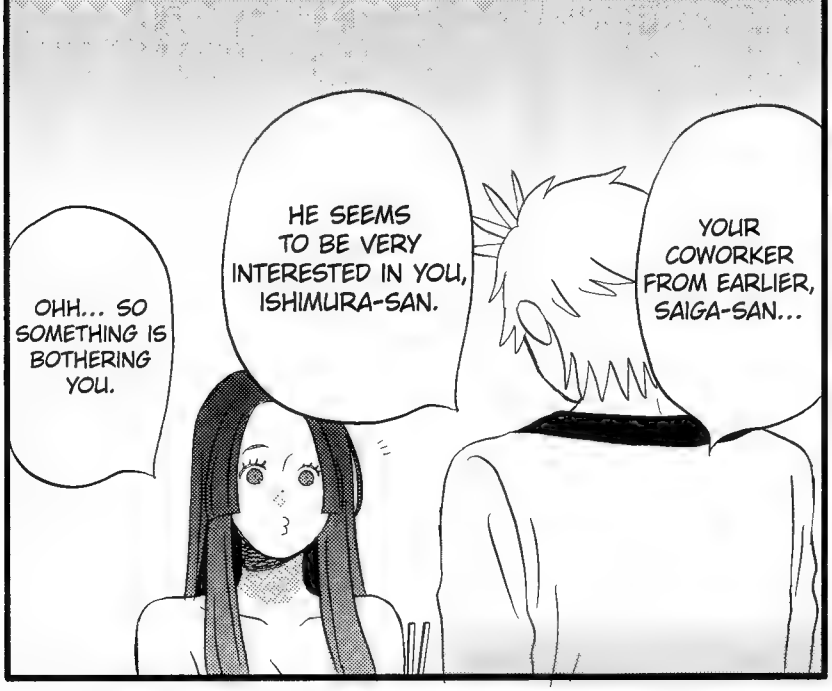
TOTALLY NUDE!
PHEW! ♪
BA-BAAAM!



I'LL GET DINNER READY.
...I'M THE SAME AS ALWAYS, THOUGH?

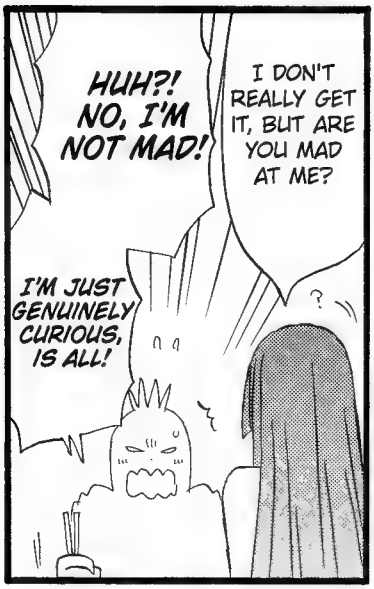
MUNCH
MUNCH
IT'S ONLY NATURAL THAT MEN HAVE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN HER AND APPROACHED HER BEFORE.
ASIDE FROM HER PROCLIVITY TO WALK AROUND NAKED INDOORS AND HER STRANGE PERSONALITY...
ISHIMURA-SAN IS BEAUTIFUL, AND A DOCTOR.

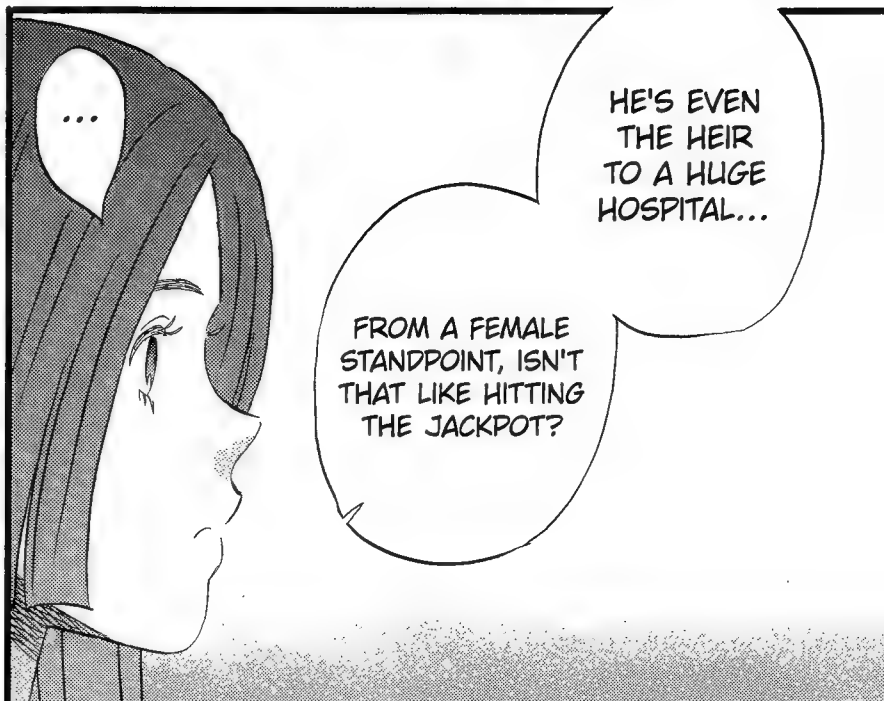
CLACK
CLACK

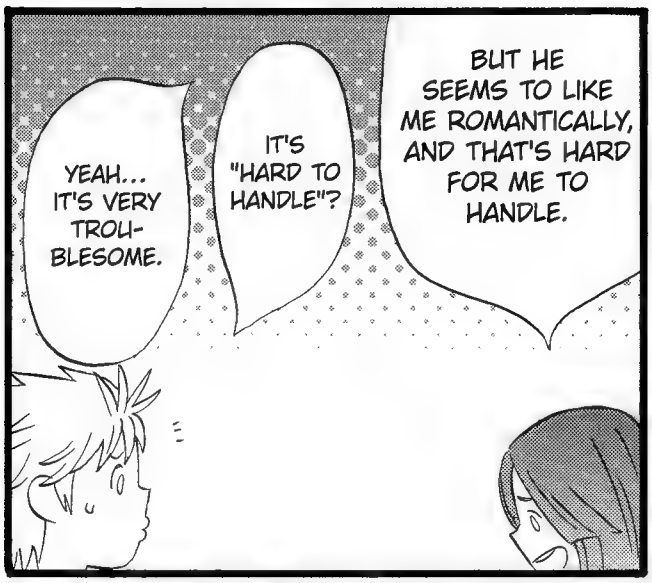

OHH... SO SOMETHING IS BOTHERING YOU.
HE SEEMS TO BE VERY INTERESTED IN YOU, ISHIMURA-SAN.
YOUR COWORKER FROM EARLIER, SAIGA-SAN...

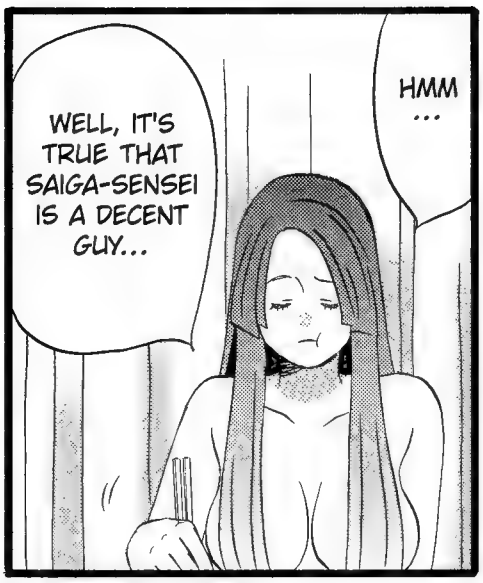
I MEAN...
MUNCH...

IF YOU HAD ASKED HIM, I'M SURE HE WOULD'VE SAID "YES" RIGHT AWAY.
SHOULDN'T YOU HAVE MARRIED SAIGA-SAN INSTEAD OF ME?
IF... YOU WERE WILLING TO MARRY JUST ABOUT ANYONE...

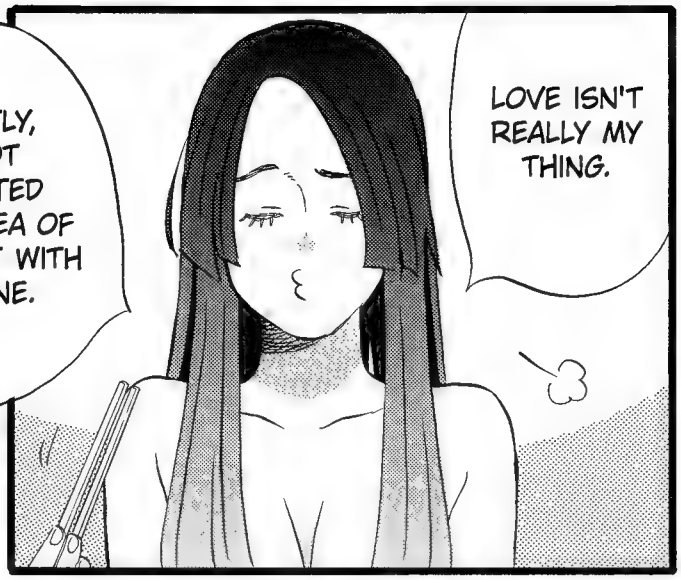

HUH?! NO, I'M NOT MAD!
I DON'T REALLY GET IT, BUT ARE YOU MAD AT ME?
I'M JUST GENUINELY CURIOUS, IS ALL!


...
HE'S EVEN THE HEIR TO A HUGE HOSPITAL...
FROM A FEMALE STANDPOINT, ISN'T THAT LIKE HITTING THE JACKPOT?

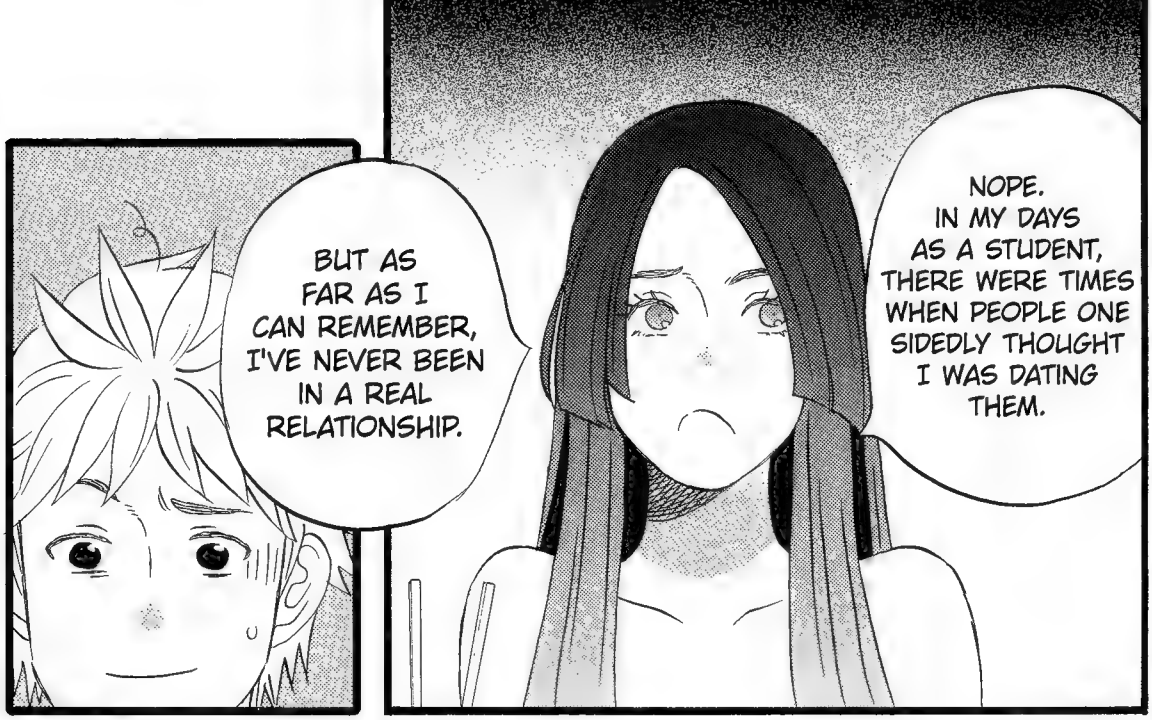

BUT HE SEEMS TO LIKE ME ROMANTICALLY, AND THAT'S HARD FOR ME TO HANDLE.
IT'S "HARD TO HANDLE"?
YEAH... IT'S VERY TROU-BLESOME.

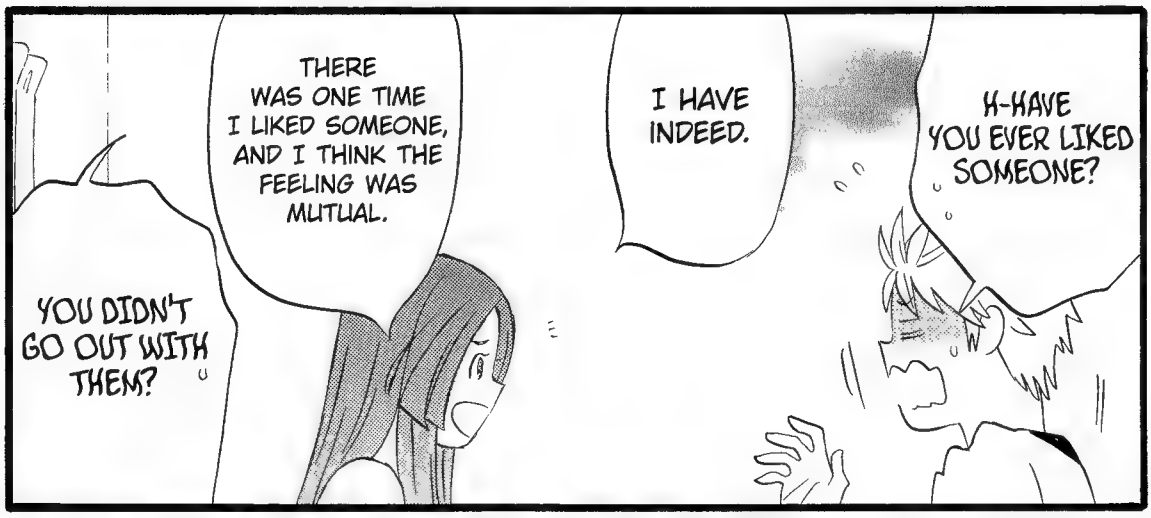

HMM ...
WELL, IT'S TRUE THAT SAIGA-SENSEI IS A DECENT GUY...

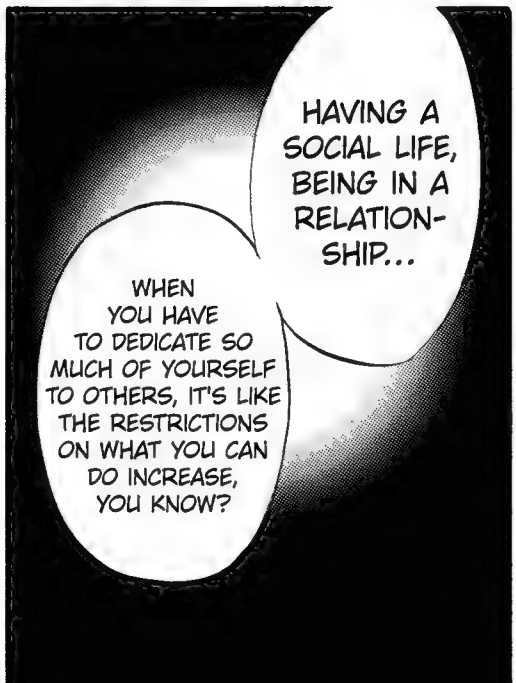
...?
HONESTLY, I'M NOT ATTRACTED TO THE IDEA OF GOING OUT WITH SOMEONE.

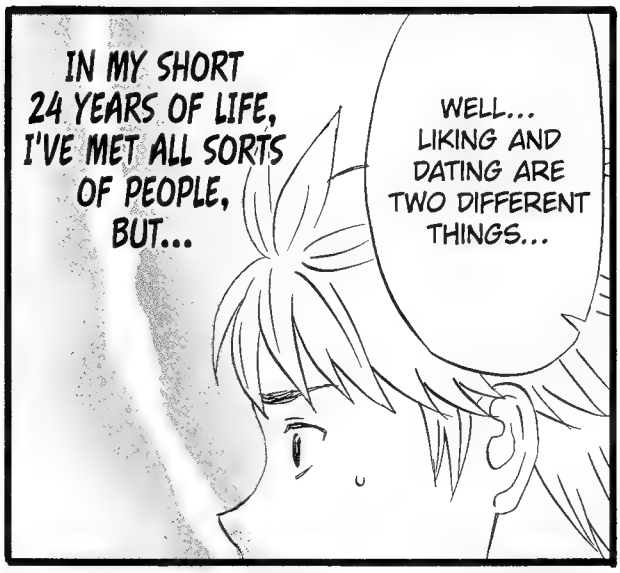

LOVE ISN'T REALLY MY THING.

UM... ISHIMURA-SAN ...
WHAT?
HAVE YOU BEEN IN A RELATIONSHIP BEFORE?
OHH...


BUT AS FAR AS I CAN REMEMBER, I'VE NEVER BEEN IN A REAL RELATIONSHIP.
NOPE. IN MY DAYS AS A STUDENT, THERE WERE TIMES WHEN PEOPLE ONE SIDEDLY THOUGHT I WAS DATING THEM.


YOU DIDN'T GO OUT WITH THEM?
THERE WAS ONE TIME I LIKED SOMEONE, AND I THINK THE FEELING WAS MUTUAL.
I HAVE INDEED.
H-HAVE YOU EVER LIKED SOMEONE?


HAVING A SOCIAL LIFE, BEING IN A RELATION-SHIP...
WHEN YOU HAVE TO DEDICATE SO MUCH OF YOURSELF TO OTHERS, IT'S LIKE THE RESTRICTIONS ON WHAT YOU CAN DO INCREASE, YOU KNOW?


IN MY SHORT 24 YEARS OF LIFE, I'VE MET ALL SORTS OF PEOPLE, BUT...
WELL... LIKING AND DATING ARE TWO DIFFERENT THINGS...

I BELIEVE THE PHRASE "DOES THINGS AT THEIR OWN PACE" WAS COINED SPECIFICALLY FOR THIS WOMAN.

IT'S HONESTLY A HASSLE.

Right?

YOU KNOW... I THINK YOU'RE THE KIND OF PERSON WHO SHOULD REALLY FORGET BEING IN LOVE OR GETTING MARRIED, ISHIMURA-SAN!

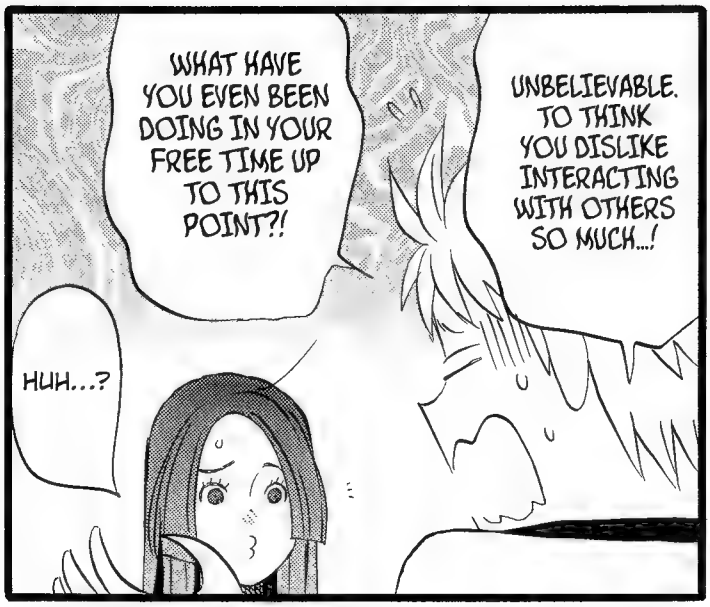
You're basically at the point where you just can't love anyone!

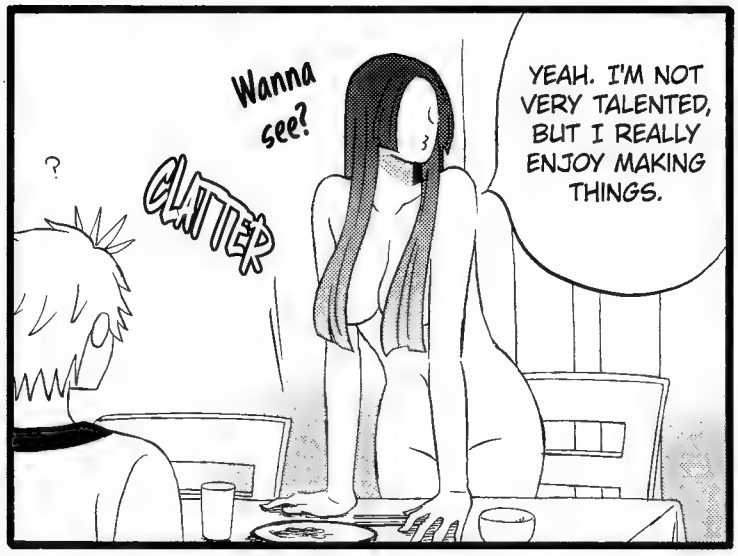
CLUTTER

YEAH, I KNOW THAT.

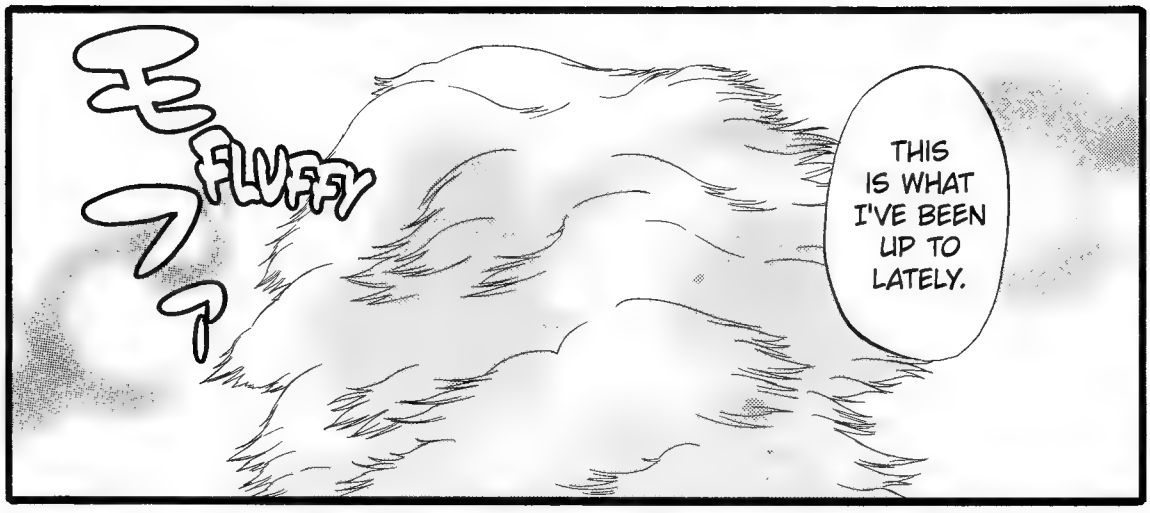
THAT'S WHY I WANNA BE A DIVORCÉE.

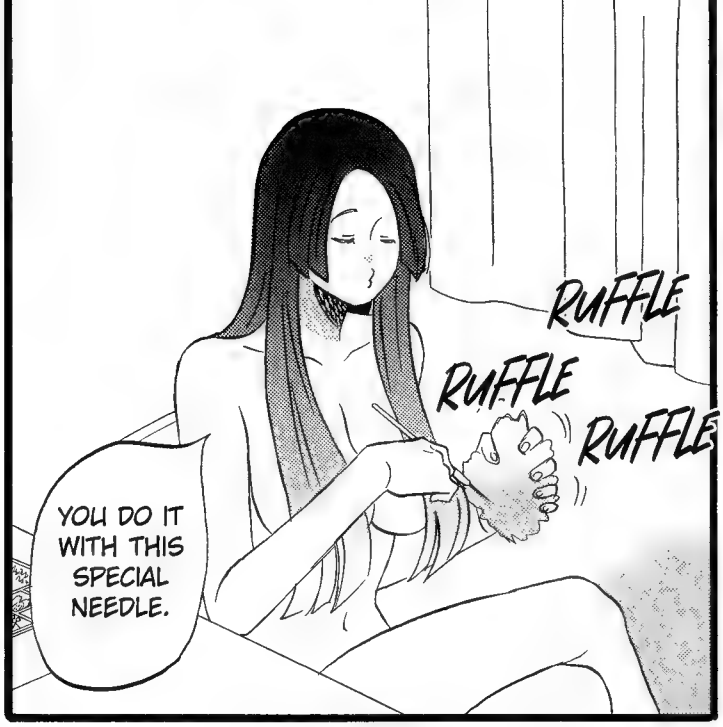
READING, EXERCISING, GOING OUT FOR A DRINK...


WHAT HAVE YOU EVEN BEEN DOING IN YOUR FREE TIME UP TO THIS POINT?!
UNBELIEVABLE. TO THINK YOU DISLIKE INTERACTING WITH OTHERS SO MUCH...!
HUH...?


YEAH. I'M NOT VERY TALENTED, BUT I REALLY ENJOY MAKING THINGS.
Wanna see?
CLATTER
?

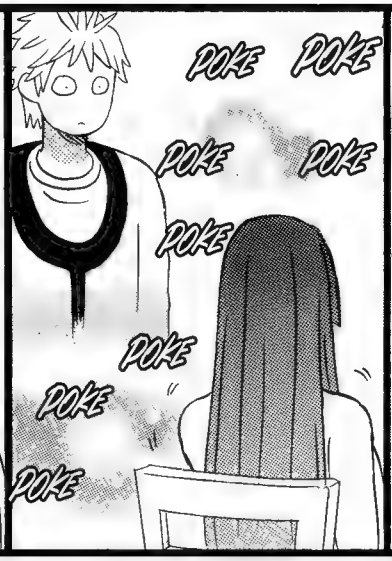
...AND CRAFTING?
CRAFTING?

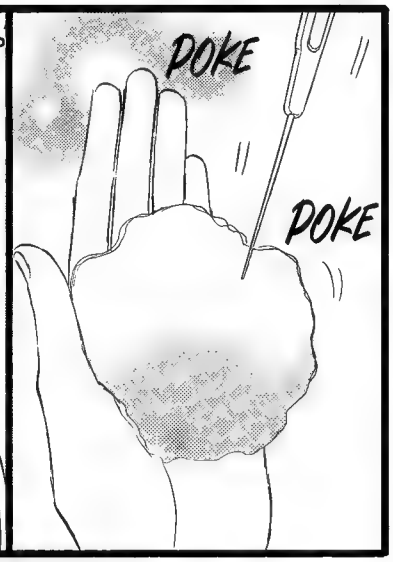

FLUFFY
THIS IS WHAT I'VE BEEN UP TO LATELY.


YOU DO IT WITH THIS SPECIAL NEEDLE.
RUFFLE
RUFFLE
RUFFLE

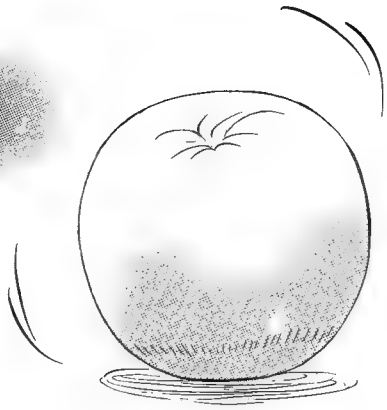
WHAT'S THIS? COTTON?
IT'S CALLED WOOL FELT.
Give it to me.

Yawn...
POKE
POKE
POKE
POKE
POKE
POKE

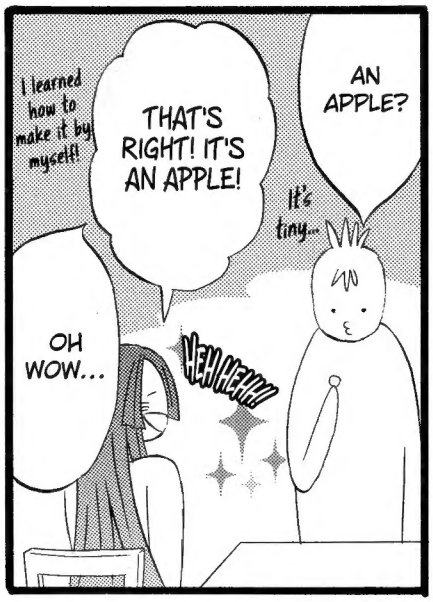

POKE
POKE
POKE
POKE
POKE
POKE
POKE


POKE
POKE

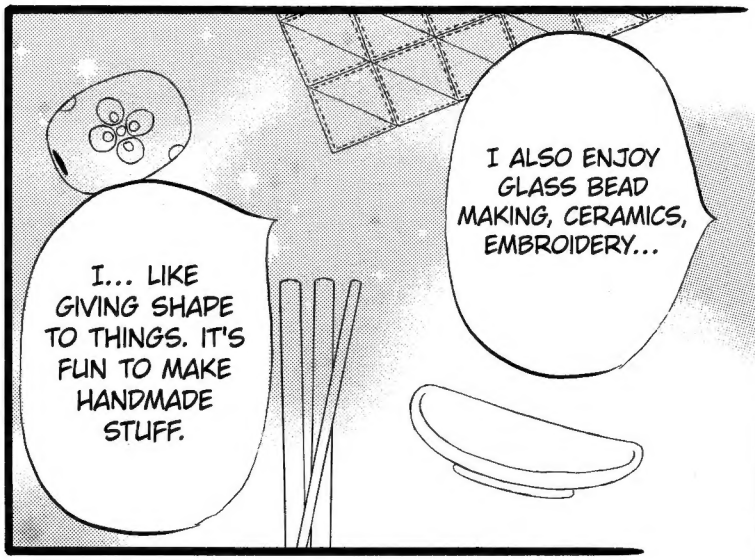
THERE YOU GO.



ROLL


AN APPLE?
It's tiny...
THAT'S RIGHT! IT'S AN APPLE!
I learned how to make it by myself!
OH WOW...
HEH HEH!!

...


I ALSO ENJOY GLASS BEAD MAKING, CERAMICS, EMBROIDERY...
I... LIKE GIVING SHAPE TO THINGS. IT'S FUN TO MAKE HANDMADE STUFF.

POKE
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POKE
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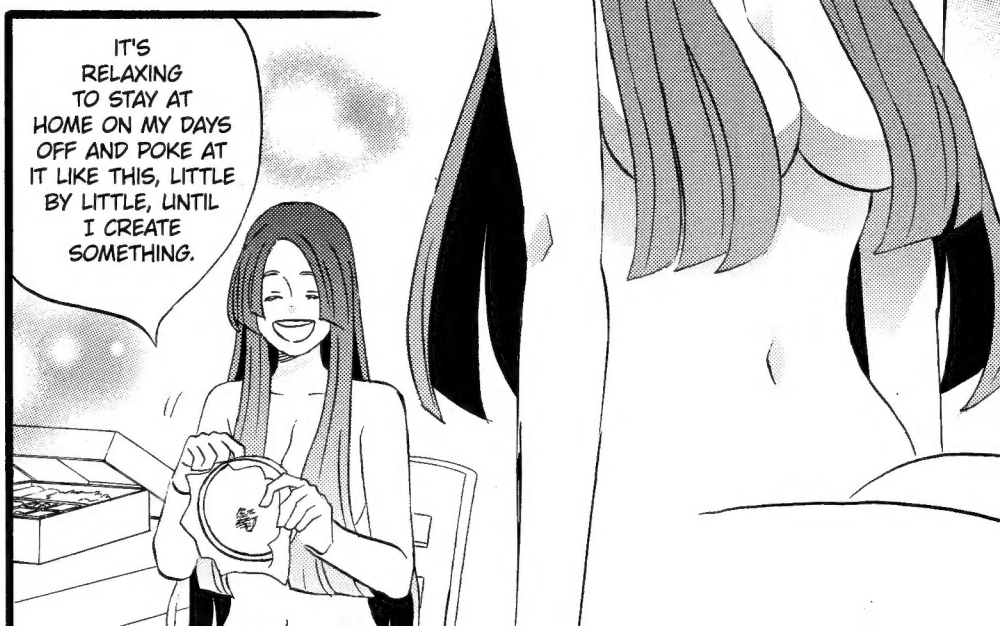
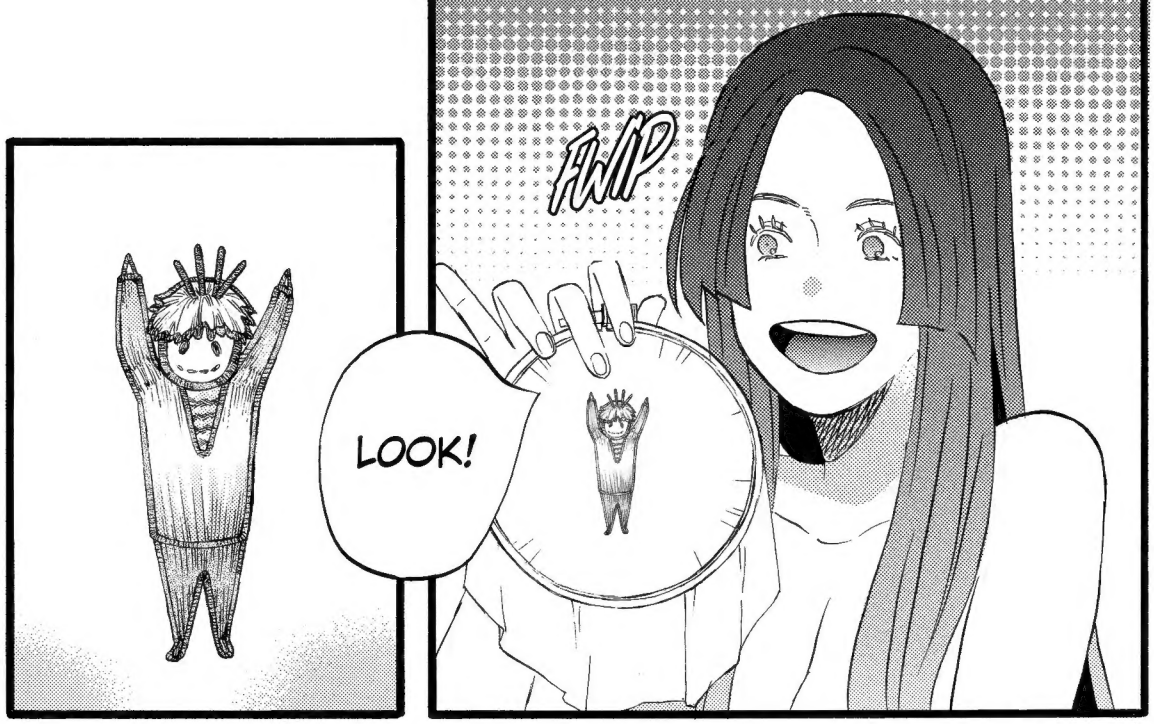
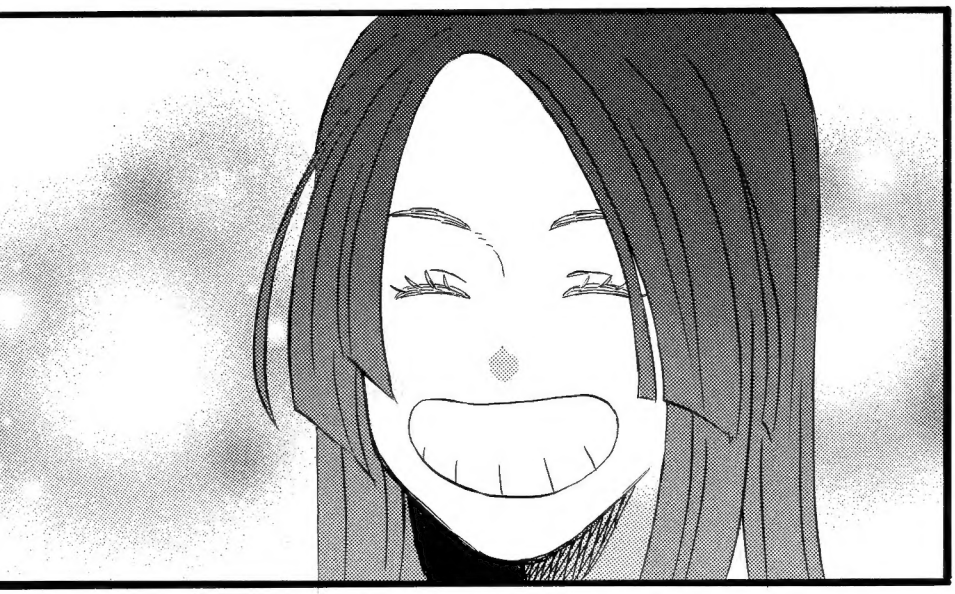
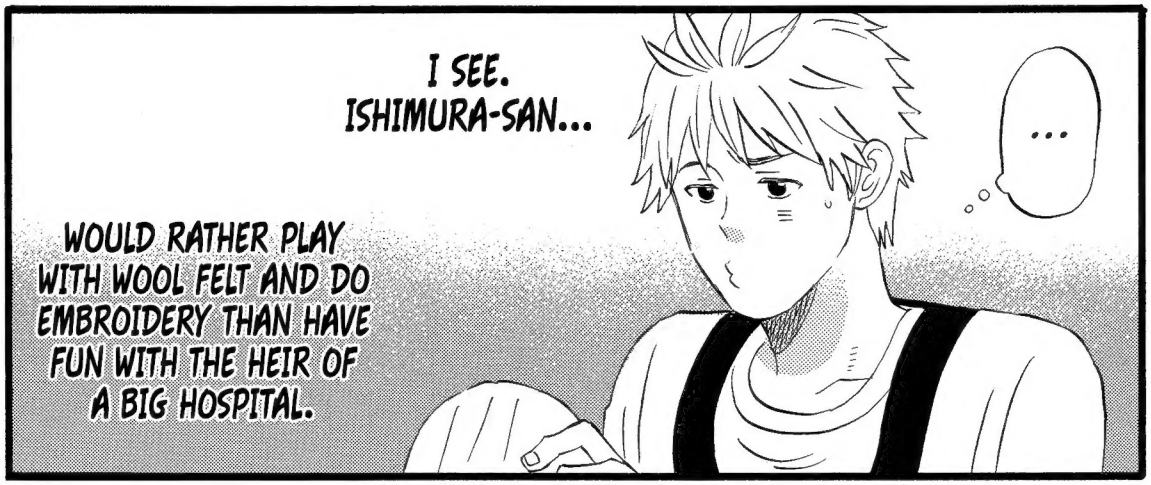
POKE


IT'S RELAXING TO STAY AT HOME ON MY DAYS OFF AND POKE AT IT LIKE THIS, LITTLE BY LITTLE, UNTIL I CREATE SOMETHING.


FWIP
LOOK!



...?
IS THAT ME?
Really?


I SEE. ISHIMURA-SAN...
...
WOULD RATHER PLAY WITH WOOL FELT AND DO EMBROIDERY THAN HAVE FUN WITH THE HEIR OF A BIG HOSPITAL.

I THOUGHT HE SOUNDED COOL WHEN HE SAID THAT, AS IF HE HADN'T GIVEN UP ON ISHIMURA-SAN, BUT...

BUT IT APPEARS THAT IS NOT THE CASE HERE.

I WOULD HAVE GRACEFULLY GIVEN UP IF ISHIMURA HAD A NORMAL, HAPPY MARRIAGE.

SAIGA-SENSEI IS STILL PRETTY YOUNG, TOO. I WISH HE COULD FIND A GOOD PARTNER AND GET MARRIED ALREADY!

I KNOW, RIIIGHT?

He's got all those qualities, and yet...

I'VE GOTTA SAY I FEEL SORRY FOR SAIGA-SAN...

I DON'T THINK YOU, OF ALL PEOPLE, SHOULD SAY THAT, ISHIMURA-SAN.

POKE

POKE

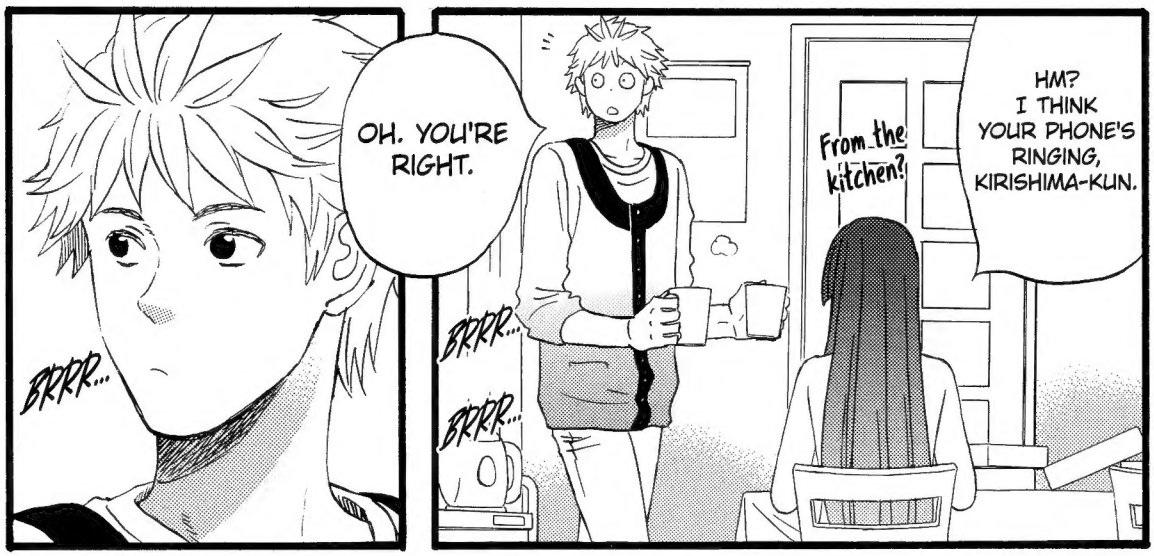
Hmm...

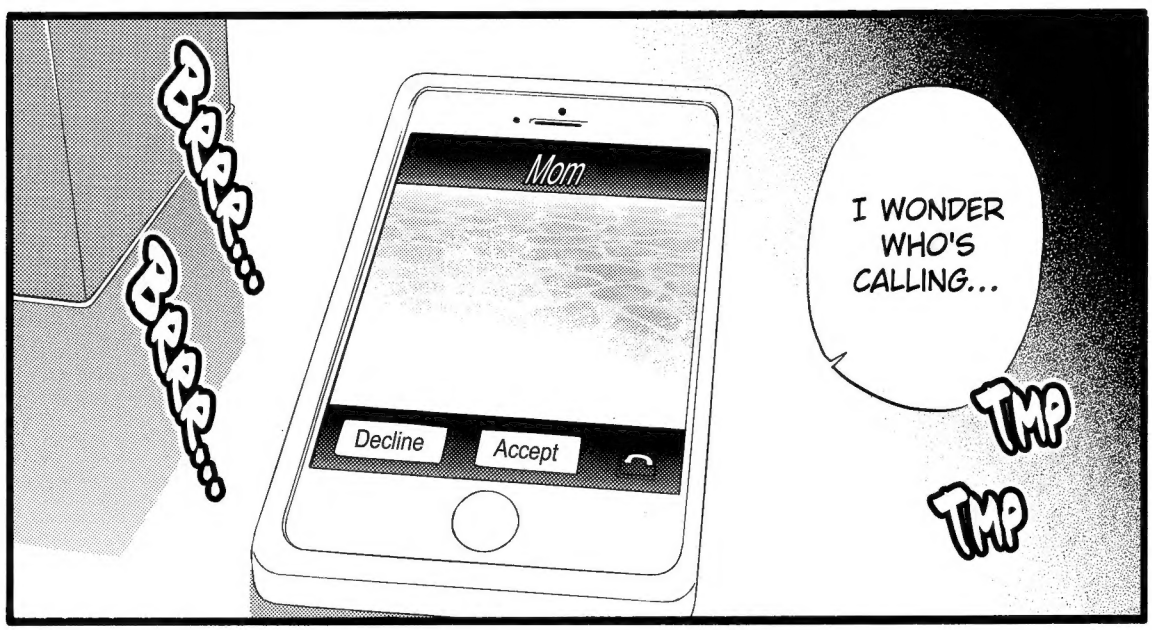
RECENTLY KIRISHIMA-KUN HAS BEEN THINKING, "IT MIGHT NOT BE SO BAD IF THIS LIFE LASTS FOR A LITTLE LONGER."

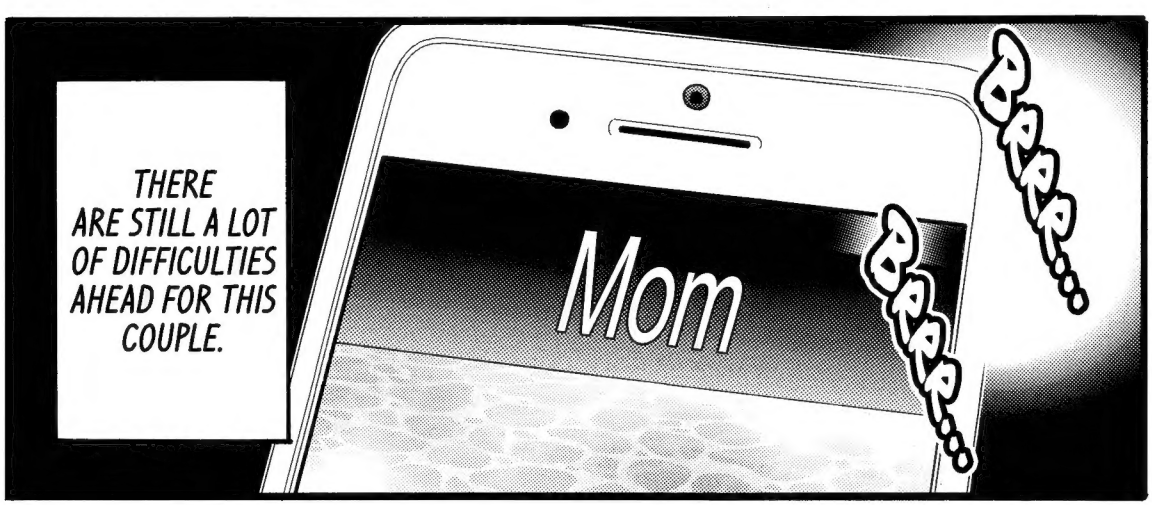
Oh! Yeah, totally.

Do you want some tea?

AND SO, THE THIRD WEEK OF THE COUPLE'S STRANGE MARRIAGE CAME TO AN END.


BRRR...
OH. YOU'RE RIGHT.
BRRR...
BRRR...
From the kitchen?
HM? I THINK YOUR PHONE'S RINGING, KIRISHIMA-KUN.


BRRR...
BRRR...
Mom
Decline
Accept
I WONDER WHO'S CALLING...
TMP
TMP


THERE ARE STILL A LOT OF DIFFICULTIES AHEAD FOR THIS COUPLE.
Mom
BRRR...
BRRR...